

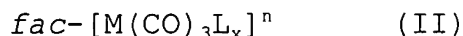
Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 18-26 and 32, and amend claims 27-31.

1-17. (Canceled).

18-26. (Canceled herein).

27. (Currently amended) A kit for carrying out a method of preparing a compound of formula

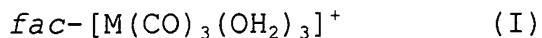


wherein:

M is Mn, ^{99m}Tc , ^{186}Re or ^{188}Re ;

L_x is i) three monodentate ligands ii) one monodentate ligand and one bidentate ligand, or iii) one tridentate ligand;
and

n is a charge of the ligand L_x increased with one + charge;
comprising reacting ligand L_x with a compound of formula



wherein M is as defined above, and wherein the compound of formula (I) is prepared by ~~a reaction in which~~ reacting a metal in permetallate form ~~is reacted~~ with carbon monoxide and a ~~reducing agent, wherein said reducing agent comprises~~ stannous ion reducing agent, said kit comprising (1) a lyophilized formulation including stannous ion formulation, wherein said stannous ion may be in the form of a discrete molecule comprising which comprises said stannous ion ~~plus~~ and an anion, (2) carbon

monoxide and (3) a metal M ~~which is~~ selected from the group consisting of Mn, ^{99m}Tc, ¹⁸⁶Re or and ¹⁸⁸Re.

28. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 27 wherein said stannous ion reducing agent is SnCl₂.

29. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 27 wherein said stannous ion formulation further ~~includes~~ comprises lactose.

30. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 27 wherein said stannous ion formulation further ~~includes~~ comprises pyrophosphate or gluceptate.

31. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 27 ~~further comprising a ligand wherein~~ L_x ~~which is a multidentate~~ an aminopolycarboxylate ligand.

32. (Canceled herein).